

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 09010 221210Z

11

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 220845Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4880

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9010

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS C PK

SUBJECT: ALLEGED THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFER TO PAKISTAN

REF: NEW DELHI 15968; ISLAMABAD 10999; TEHRAN 4256 AND PREVIOUS

1. NEW DELHI REFTEL IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF ALLEGED TRANSFER OF 70 RECONDITIONED IRANIAN QTE P-47 UNQTE TANKS TO PAKISTAN. NO EMBASSY OR DAO SOURCES HAVE PASSED ON SUCH A TALE. MAAG ADVISORS, WHO WORK CLOSELY WITH IIGF, ARE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN REPORT IS FALSE AND WE BELIEVE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR 70 OF SOME 400 M-47 RPT M-47 TANKS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM IIGF INVENTORY LAST JUNE WITHOUT MAAG KNOWLEDGE. MAAG ADVISORS WILL CONFIRM BY RECOUNTING AS THEY TRAVEL TO IIGF INSTALLATIONS IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.

2. WE CAN CONCEIVE OF TWO EXPLANATIONS FOR CHIB'S RUMOR:

(A) LAST SUMMER IIGF BEGAN TRANSFER OF TWO TANK BATTALIONS (108) TANKS) TO MASHED.

(B) SOME MONTHS BACK WE HEARD RUMOR PAKISTANI TANKS (M-48S WE BELIEVE) WOULD BE RUN THROUGH IRANIAN RETROFIT FACILITY WHEN WORK ON IIGF TANKS HAD BEEN COMPLETED. WE ALSO HEARD THAT THIS DEAL, LIKE CONTEMPLATED C-130 SALE, FOUNDERED ON PAK INABILITY TO PAY. CERTAINLY THERE HAVE BEEN NO PAK TANKS AT THE FACILITY, NOR DO WE KNOW OF ANY

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NEAR-TERM PLANNING FOR THEM.

3. WE ENDORSE AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S PROPOSED REPROACH TO
FOREIGN SECRETARY AND SUGGEST HE MAY ALSO WISH TO REVIEW
AND DRAW ON POINTS IN TEHRAN 4256. IT IS EXACTLY THIS KIND
OF INDIAN RUMOR MONGERING THAT FILTERS BACK TO TEHRAN AND
FOSTER NEW SUSPICIONS.
HELMS

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NNN

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